

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The protective element according to Claim 1, A~~
protective element, comprising:

_____ a heat-generating member; and

_____ a low-melting metal member on a substrate between a pair of electrodes that
pass current through the low-melting member, in which the low-melting metal member is
blown out by the heat generated by the heat-generating member;

_____ wherein a thin-walled component [[is]]formed in the low-melting metal
member between the pair of electrodes that pass current to the low-melting metal member,
blows out as an effect of the heat-generating member [[is]]generating heat, so that the lateral
cross section of at least part of said the low-melting metal member is divided-divides into at
least two independent cross sections while the heat-generating member is generating heat.

5. (New) The protective element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thin-walled component formed in the low-melting metal member blows out as an effect of the heat-generating member generating heat, so that the lateral cross section along the entire length of the low-melting metal member in the direction of the current flow divides into at least two independent cross sections.